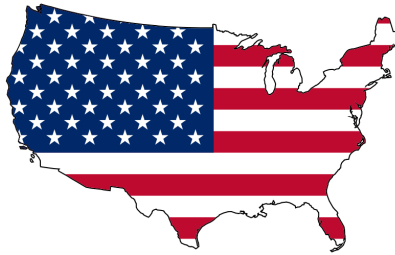


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 15
August 16- August 31, 2010

Contents:

1. U.S. Shifts from Military to Civilian-Led Mission in Iraq

Washington — The United States has ended its seven-and-a-half-year-old military operation in Iraq and is shifting to a civilian-led mission to build a partnership with Iraq that will strengthen its government, industry and people, President Obama says. ...

2. US Aiding Preservation of European Cultural Patrimony

From fourth-century wall paintings in Macedonia to a 14th-century fortress in Moldova, landmarks in a dozen European nations are the latest cultural heritage sites to receive support from a U.S. government fund that is helping to protect the world's cultural patrimony. ...

3. US Central Bank Chief Says Fed Could Act to Shore Up Economy

Chairman Ben Bernanke signaled that the U.S. central bank will use “unconventional” policies if necessary to support the economic recovery. ...

4. Clinton Invites Israel, Palestinians to Restart Direct Talks

The United States and its partners in the Middle East Quartet believe Israel and the Palestinians can resolve their differences and agree to a two-state solution within one year and have invited the leaders of both sides to conduct their first direct negotiations in nearly two years. ...

5. US, International Aid Helps Fight Disease in Pakistan Floods

Waterborne and other infectious diseases threaten more than 15 million people in Pakistan, where the July-September monsoon season has already produced floodwaters that have killed at least 1,500 people, left an estimated 20 million homeless and now cover a fifth of the country. ...

6. An Iftar for Everyone

During Ramadan in Washington, the area's diverse and active Muslim community makes sure there are plenty of ways to celebrate their faith's holiest time of year. Washington's large number of young Muslims, many living away from their homes and relatives, ensure that no one is left out. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page

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The President speaks to the Nation from the Oval Office. [video | photo gallery]

The End of the Combat Mission in Iraq

Remarks by the President in Address to the Nation on the End of Combat Operations in Iraq

August 31, 2010 | White House, Oval Office Address

President Obama announces the end of the combat mission in Iraq and discusses the future of the U.S. commitment to helping build a stable Iraq in an address to the nation from the Oval Office. "Only Iraqis can build a democracy within their borders. What

America can do, and will do, is provide support for the Iraqi people as both a friend and partner," he said. ... [Full Text»](#) | [Video»](#) | [Photo Gallery»](#) | [Blog posts on this issue»](#)



Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker enjoy a traditional Macedonian song performed by young Roma children. (LP)

[Ambassador Reeker Announces Julia Taft Refugee Fund Award for the Skopje Red Cross](#)

September 1, 2010

In a ceremony today, marking the first day of the new school year, Ambassador Philip Reeker and Solveig Reeker joined the Secretary General of the Macedonian Red Cross, Sait Saiti, the Secretary of the Red Cross Skopje, Suzana Tuneva Paunovska, and the chief of UNHCR office in Macedonia, Carlos Maldonado, to announce the newest Julia Taft Refugee Fund project in Macedonia. Through a State Department

grant, the Red Cross of the City of Skopje was awarded \$22,750 to provide educational materials to 455 refugee children, mostly Roma from Kosovo.

Background: The Taft Refugee Fund was set up in October 2000 under the leadership of former Assistant Secretary of State Julia Taft, to respond to the critical needs of refugees throughout the world that have not been addressed in larger multilateral refugee programs. In 2009, through this Fund projects were funded in 34 different countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

◇ **To read the Ambassador's remarks, please [click here](#).**

◇ **To see more photos of the event, please [click here](#).**



Ambassador Reeker talks to Alfa TV reporter. (LP)

Video - (WMV file-size 30.7 MB)

[Ambassador Philip T. Reeker's interview with Alfa TV](#)

August 26, 2010

In a broad-ranging interview with Alfa Television on Friday August 26, Ambassador Reeker discussed a number of bilateral issues. Regarding the name issue with Greece, the Ambassador reiterated earlier statements. "We believe a resolution of the name issue is possible; we do not believe that has to involve a change of the constitutional name or a change of the Macedonian Constitution. That is your Constitution, your sacred document. What needs to happen is the two sides, Greece and Macedonia, need to agree on an international reference that can be used in place of FYROM," Ambassador Reeker said.

The Ambassador went on to discuss the role of an engaged public in the issue. "I think the public needs to stand back and take responsibility itself, to look at the issues, and to listen to what people are saying. Certainly, you should do so if you want to understand the United States position and what we have argued, to look at what the real question is here; it is not a question of identity, it is not a question of the language you speak. It is a question of finding an adjustment that will allow you to keep your Constitution, your country, to continue working and strengthening your country in the framework of the North-Atlantic community. That's what I think you and all of the citizens of Macedonia need to work on together with the Government, with your elected representatives, to find ways forward."

♦ **To see a transcript of the interview, please [click here](#).**

♦ **To view the interview, please [click here](#) (Alfa TV video footage, WMV - size 30.7 MB).**



Erin Epstein, a representative of the U.S. Embassy, distributes prizes to the winners of the women's recreational competition. (LP)

Triathlon Again Brings People Together at Lake Ohrid

August 31, 2010

Integrity AlphaOmega, a Macedonia-based NGO, hosted 50 competitors and 40 volunteers on Saturday, August 28, to swim, bike, and run in a triathlon by Lake Ohrid. The U.S. Embassy Skopje works regularly with Integrity AO and other organizations to promote sport and fun outdoor activities for youth in Macedonia, both men and women, and from all ethnic groups. The City of Struga provided excellent support as a patron sponsor, as did a number of corporate sponsors, for this initiative to promote civil society and bring people out to enjoy the natural beauty of Macedonia.



Poet Corey Marks reads at the Meridians Opening Ceremony. (LP)
[video](#) - A1TV footage (WMV -size 20 MB)

Poet Corey Marks Takes the Stage at Struga Poetry Evenings

August 19-24, 2010

The 2010 Struga Poetry Festival hosted sixty international poets to a week-long poetry festival from August 19-24. The U.S. Embassy was especially pleased to support the appearance of Poet Corey Marks, winner of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and Poetry Editor for the American Literary Review. The opening ceremony in Struga, Meridians, highlighted the readings of poets from around the world. The Festival continued with the traditional reading from the bridge of the fast-flowing river Crni Drim in Struga, a Poetry Slam event and a traveling Poets' Road Show with readings in Prilep and at the soaring Matka Gorge near Skopje.

- ◇ To see his statement for A1 TV [WMV file, size 20 MB], [please click](#).
- ◇ To read his statement given for the weekly magazine "GLOBUS", [please click here](#).
- ◇ To read his poem, *Portrait of a Child*, [click here](#).

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Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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